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3 **RESOLUTION NO. 2013-44**
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5 **A RESOLUTION OF THE VILLAGE**
6 **COMMISSION OF THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE**
7 **PARK, FLORIDA, ADOPTING AN ANTI-**
8 **BULLYING POLICY THAT ESTABLISHES AN**
9 **AWARENESS CAMPAIGN FOR THE**
10 **PREVENTION OF BULLYING, HARASSMENT**
11 **AND INTIMIDATION OF CHILDREN AT**
12 **VILLAGE FACILITIES; PROVIDING FOR AN**
13 **EFFECTIVE DATE**
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15 WHEREAS, the Village of Biscayne Park ("Village") is concerned with the
16 health, safety and welfare of its citizens and particularly to provide a healthy, positive,
17 and safe atmosphere for its children; and

18 WHEREAS, reports of bullying incidents seem to be increasing, and research suggests
19 that such incidents directly affect students' health and wellbeing, and contribute to excess
20 absences from school, physical sickness, mental and emotional anguish, and long-term social
21 and mental consequences, such that in 2011 the Florida legislature adopted Section 1006.146,
22 Florida Statutes, defining and prohibiting bullying and harassment, in the public schools; and,
23 amended earlier this year to define and prohibit cyber-bullying in the public schools; and

24 WHEREAS, bullying, harassment and intimidation can take many physical, verbal and
25 written forms, including social exclusion, peer sexual harassment, bullying about race, ethnicity,
26 religion, disability, gender identify, sexual orientation, bullying through email, texting, social
27 media and other digital means; and,

28 WHEREAS, it is long past time for society in general to acknowledge that bullying is
29 not a right-of-passage to be tolerated, but a real detriment to the development and success of our
30 citizenry, especially the children; and,

31 WHEREAS, children utilize the Village Recreation Center and greenspaces, the Village
32 and concerned residents are urged to work together to further define and understand the multiple

1 aspects of bullying and effectively use systems for educating and reporting bullying related
2 incidents; and,

3 WHEREAS, the Village Commission believes it is in the best interest of the Village
4 residents to be proactive in these matters and to assure that every child is valued and respected
5 regardless of perceived differences, the Commission therefore condemns all forms of bullying
6 and affirms the Village's commitment to equality and freedom from discrimination and violence
7 for all of its residents, and particularly its children.

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COMMISSION OF
9 THE VILLAGE OF BISCAYNE PARK, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

10 **Section 1. Recitals.** The above-stated recitals are true and correct, are hereby
11 incorporated hereby, confirmed and adopted.

12 **Section 2. Adoption of Anti-Bullying Policy.** The Village Commission wishes to
13 demonstrate its concern on the matter by adopting an Anti-Bullying Policy that establishes an
14 awareness campaign and a reporting system for bullying, harassment and intimidation, and urges
15 the Village Parks and Recreation Department and Village Recreation Advisory Board to develop
16 an awareness and education campaign to promote the use of respectful language, fostering an
17 understanding of and respect for diversity, and annual training program for Village staff and
18 facility users.¹ Further, the Village Commission encourages collaboration with recreation
19 professionals, advisory groups and other counterparts in surrounding communities to increase
20 awareness and effectuate an anti-bullying policy to help promote the safety of all children.

21 **Section 3. Further Direction.** The Village Manager is authorized to take action
22 necessary to implement this Resolution, within budgetary guidelines. The Village Clerk is
23 authorized and directed to send a copy of this resolution to the municipal Clerks, School

1 Principals of K-8 public and private schools in the surrounding communities, and the Miami
2 Dade County League of Cities to encourage similar efforts.

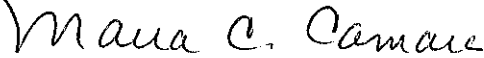
3 **Section 4.** This Resolution shall be effective upon adoption.
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5 PASSED AND ADOPTED this 14th day of November, 2013.

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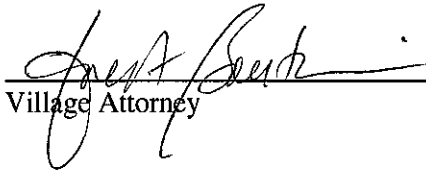
10 For Noah Jacobs, Mayor
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14 Attest:

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18 Maria C. Camara, Village Clerk
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20 Approved as to form:
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25 Village Attorney
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**The foregoing resolution upon being
put to a vote, the vote was as follows:**

Mayor Jacobs: No
Vice Mayor Anderson: Yes
Commissioner Cooper: No
Commissioner Ross: Yes
Commissioner Watts: Yes

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¹ The State Attorney's Office, Community Outreach Division (COD) engages communities with a Bullying Prevention Presentation to teach children how to deal with bullying situation and prevent escalation of such behaviors. (Contact COD at 305-547-0724).